

2 Timothy 2:1-13



You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs--he wants to please his commanding officer. Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules. The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.

2 Timothy 2:1-13

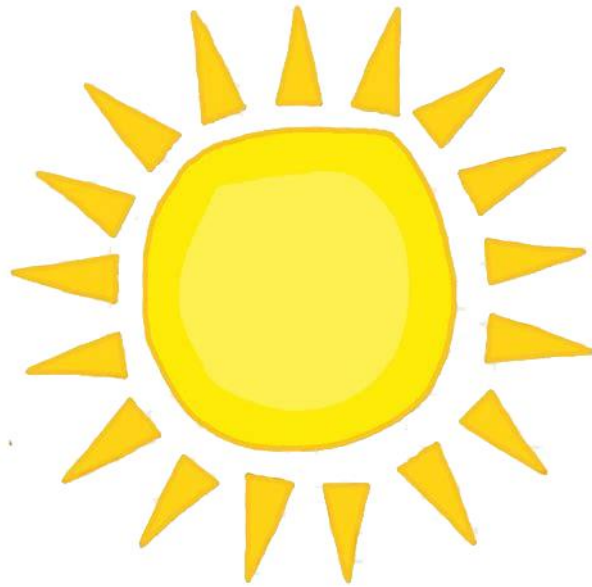


Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God`s word is not chained. Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. Here is a trustworthy saying.. If we died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us; if we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

An affectionate command

You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

Grace in Christ (the power source)



Be strong – in resolve, patience, hope



Transmission

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.



Paul's message is from the Lord
Pass it on to reliable men teachers
who will pass it on.

This is the real "apostolic succession".

Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.



The life of a Christian is compared to warfare

Hardships are inevitable and part of the process

It isn't ordinary warfare – soldiers of Christ Jesus

Good soldiers – rather than lazy or deserters.

Focus - an army illustration

No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs--
he wants to please his commanding officer.

You're in the army now!

What civilian things is he thinking about

The believer's priority

The Bible makes no distinction between
what we call "sacred and secular".



Focus - a games illustration

Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor`s crown unless he competes according to the rules.



Run the straight race – in your lane!
There is a prize to be won

Focus - a farming illustration

The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops.



No pain No gain!

There will be results – you will be blessed

Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.

Think it over

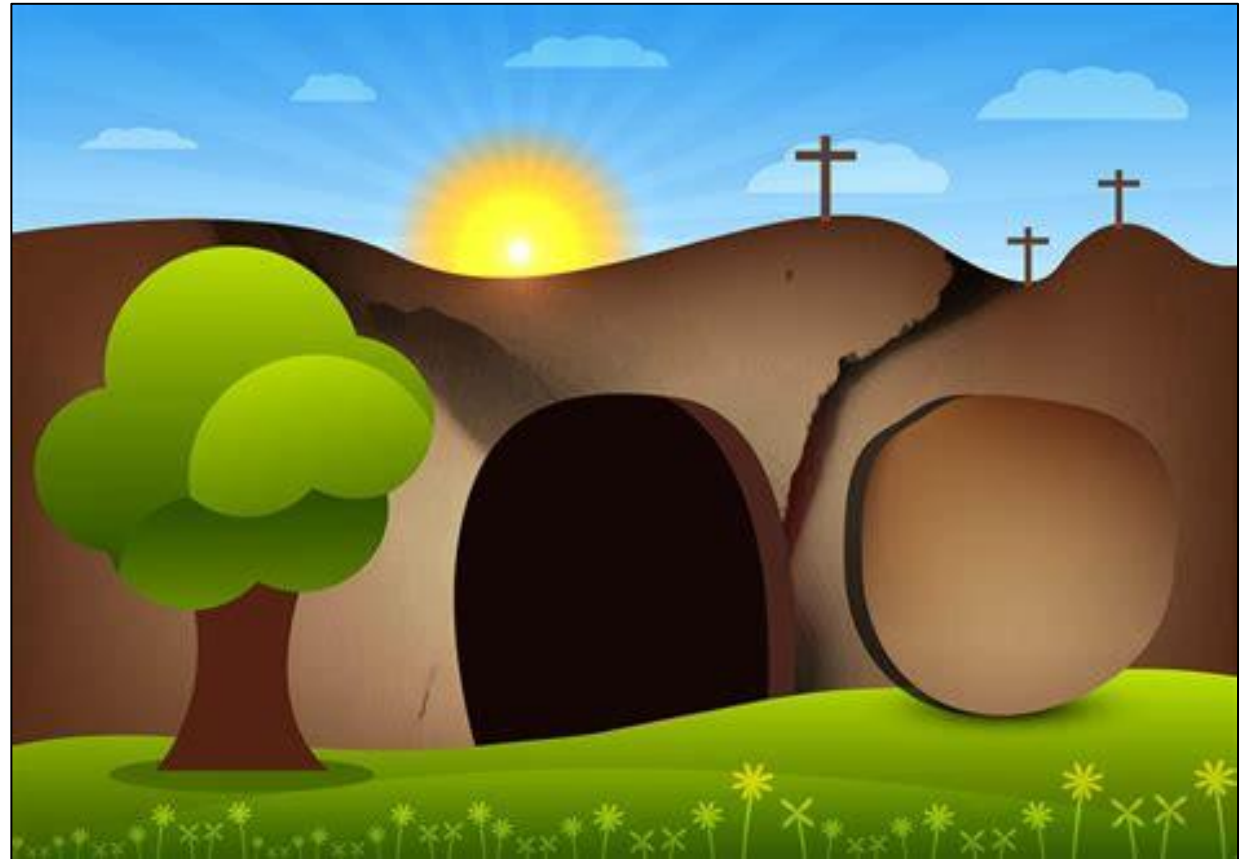
The Lord gives light and understanding



The ultimate focus for us

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David.

Remember – don't be diverted
Jesus – the human
Christ – God's anointed Saviour
Victor over the greatest enemies
The inheritor of the promises
given to David



**This is my gospel,
for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal.**

His gospel – spelled out for us but
received from Jesus cf. Galatians 1:11-12



This is my gospel,
for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal.

His suffering was real
Limited freedom
Like a criminal – but innocent



But God`s word is not chained.

Halleluia!

We can have confidence in God`s working
through the gospel message
It carries God`s power (it won`t return empty)
And has God`s backing.



Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect,

Therefore - because God's word is working I
keep going too
To become a blessing to God's chosen ones.



Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

The objective of his work and ministry is to get these people safely, gloriously to heaven!

There is a salvation

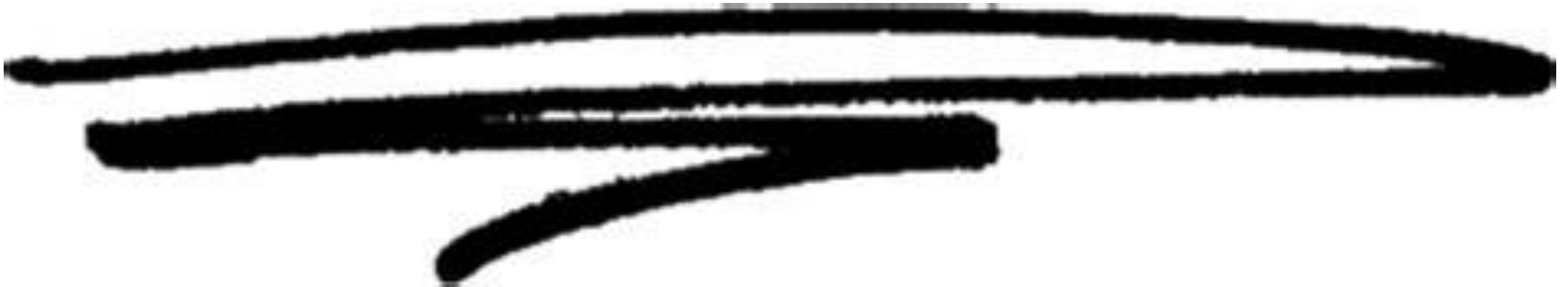
It is obtainable

It is found and received in Christ Jesus



Here is a trustworthy saying..

Another saying worth memorising
It underlines an important teaching for us



If Then there's a connection

Here is a trustworthy saying..
If we died with him, we will also live with him;



Died with him (faith in Jesus' death for us unites us to him so that what happened to him becomes our experience also)
He died and rose again THEREFORE we will live with him also.

If we died with him, we will also live with him;
if we endure, we will also reign with him.

Our union with Christ brings us into the process
of obtaining his life

Endure (the cross precedes the crown)

Christian are you prepared for this?

Exalted place of rulership to SHARE with him!



Here is a trustworthy saying..

If we died with him, we will also live with him;

if we endure, we will also reign with him.

If we disown him, he will also disown us;



Warning – this blessing is not simply automatic

It's all of grace – but by his grace we have a part to play –
endure

If we deny/disown him we face great loss

(Jesus' words "those who put their hand to the plough ...")

Matthew 10:32-33 So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

If we disown him, he will also disown us;
if we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

We can foolishly pretend to be faithful until it shows we aren't
But He remains true to his promises and warnings
It is impossible in his nature for God to lie
We can take great encouragement from that also.



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